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THE PIONEER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

Welcome to the Church Army Bookshop!

CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

A Society of Evangelists within the Anglican Church

Reg. by Aust. Post
Publication No. NAR1149

AUGUST, 1988

WHAT'S NEW IN PARISH RESOURCES?

Church Army Parish Resources are continually adding to the video programmes that it makes available to parish house groups and for special lay-training programmes.

KNOWING ABOUT JESUS

We've just recently added the longer version of "Jesus of Nazareth" by Robert Powell. The life of Christ is covered in four one and a half hour presentations. Ideal for a series of family gatherings or a house group discussion on the Gospels. Also now available is the 110 minutes film "Jesus" filmed entirely in Israel with an all Arab and Israeli cast, the script of the production is taken from the Gospel of Luke, is realistic and authentic in recapturing the life of Christ. Overseas this film has now been viewed by more people than any other film in history. The College staff hope to develop Bible studies on St Luke's Gospel to go with the film.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Several groups meeting at the College are finding much help from the series of video lectures on this topic by 'Youth With a Mission' (Y.W.A.M.) staff member Dean Sherman. The twelve one hour talks provide the basis for an ideal parish training programme for parishioners who have done the basics and want to go further.

ANSWERING THE CULTS

A number of groups have been using the video and discussion materials on the cults called the "Counterfeits". A lot more need the help that this teaching programme gives. Ron Carlson speaks on 'Jesus of the Cults'; 'Jehovah's Witnesses and the Trinity'; 'Transcendental Meditation, Yoga and Reincarnation'; 'Mormonism—Christian or Cult' and 'Spiritism, U.F.O.'s and the Occult'. A number of people have asked if these are available individually for special nights at house group. The answer is "yes".

Being very aware how much present day Christians need help with coping with the cults (let alone being cult members of Christ) we have recently added several new videos to our resources. 'The Mormon Story' and 'Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses', 'God's of the New Age' and 'Angels of Light'. Some groups are combining videos by different teachers to hold two or three week seminars e.g. Jehovah's Witnesses and the Trinity, week one followed by 'Witnessing to Jehovah's (false) Witnesses' the second week. A video presentation of the Christian Gospel (by teachers such as John Chapman, Terry Fullam or David Watson) could be added. A similar programme on 'The New Age Movement' (Shirley MacLean, etc.) could also be arranged with the outstanding video presentation 'God's of the New Age' followed by 'Angels of Light' showing how easy it was for a young woman to progressively get cought up in and be overwhelmed by the demands of this, the most rapidly growing cult movement in Australia.

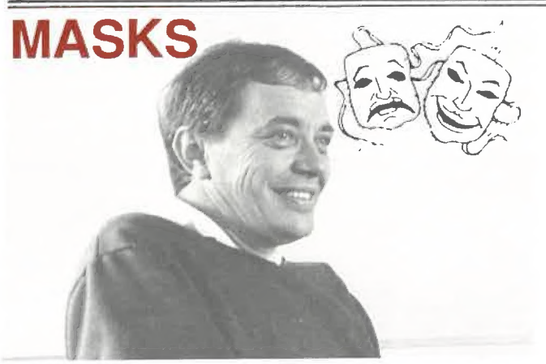
OUT OF THE SALTSHAKER

Since last Pioneer which carried information on the four talks by Rebecca Manley Pippert on personal evangelism, we have helped sixteen parish groups to do the course. Extra copies have been purchased and we are also developing extra teaching handouts for use with the present video and discussion materials.

OTHER SPECIAL VIDEOS

'The Reliability of Scripture' by Josh McDowell, 'Lessons from a Sheepdog' by Philip Kellar and 'Head in the Clouds' by David Pawson, a serles on the second coming.

MASKS



We rarely know what others are really like. The art of wearing a mask to conceal our inner feelings is often learnt from childhood.

We are taught to be nice and good. Not to cry or express anger. So what we feel like inside is rarely shown to the outside world.

If our peer group expects us to be happy, we will be happy. If they want us to succeed, we will appear successful.

Those whose marriages are crumbling in private appear content in public. Those who are crying inside may laugh on the outside.

Emotional pain is bad enough. Having to bear it alone and hide it is even worse.

We should never rush to assume that seemingly well-adjusted people are actually on top of life. The mask may not be the reality.

The God shown to us by Jesus Christ can alone penetrate our various disguises. He knows what we are feeling inside. He knows what we are really like.

When He gets to work on us, He gets to the heart of things. He isn't fooled by smiling faces, jovial personalities, or social status.

He can only love real, hurting human beings, not masks.

Rev. David Reay,
Rector of St Stephens, Belrose.
Chaplain, Church Army College of Evengelism.

"I HOPE YOU DON'T ACCEPT ME"

Gai and Nicholas Pastor

Children's work

"Here's my application form. I hope you don't accept me."

Now that's a novel approach to joining the Church Army! It was used three years ago by Gai Pastor (Atwell) and was addressed to Captain Gilbert Page, National Director of The Church Army.

A few weeks later, with suitcases in hand, Gai arrived at College with a firm conviction that it was where she was meant to be.

I asked Gai about her initial reluctance to join. "I didn't want to be religious 24 hours a day. I'd thought about the Bible College scene and felt it was too staid."

But after listening to a Church Army team who had come to her local church at Hurstville she began to warm to the idea.

When she arrived at college she found herself among people with whom she felt at home. "They played the same music I liked on their radios and one guy had a rat's tail hair cut!" Gai felt at home.

Years earlier she had a desire to do welfare work. Now, after being employed as a Church Army evangelist for over a year, she can see this is happening to some extent. But as she says, "I didn't want to just apply band-aids to people's wounds, but to share Jesus with them. What I liked about Church Army training was the practicality. In evangelism, preaching is very important but Church Army really stressed the other things as well like getting alongside people and caring for them."

Gai works part time in the Parish of St. James, Carlton. Her week is busy and varied:

* teaching a scripture class
* running a children's club and youth fellowship
* helping to lead a Bible study group
* occasional preaching
* chaplaincy work at St. George's Hospital

She speaks enthusiastically about another area of her work—helping to run "Open Doors"—a programme held at the church to help the elderly and 'shut-ins'.

I asked Gai about areas of her work she found difficult. She mentioned "door knocking"—letting people in the area know about the local church.

"I sometimes think I'm going to hate this. But God has shown me that I'll enjoy doing what I thought I'd hate." She explained that the fears could still be there, but "if there's a job to do, I'll do it".

Visiting

Another difficult area is the change from the close fellowship and support of college life to the relative isolation of parish work. Like many in her position she would like to be part of a small sharing group (outside the parish). This doesn't seem feasible at present.

However Gai feels very grateful for the support of Nicholas, her husband of 18 months. She met him while working at the Garrison Church (The Rocks) as a college student. Nicholas was a keen member of that church, and as Gai says, "He's a great sounding board".

Nicholas works as a landscape gardener and recreational officer. As that implies, he's quite energetic—into various sports as well as stained glass work and lapidary.

Gai's hobbies include taking singing lessons ("That's where," laughs Gai, "I let it all out!"), drawing and drama—both of which she can use in her ministry.

After talking with Gai you can't help being impressed with her enthusiasm for her life, her faith and her work.

Regarding her work, she may have been a reluctant starter. But now her enthusiasm for the task looks like it will take her a long way.

JENNIFER REAY.

Jennifer Reay is the wife of Rev. David Reay, Rector of St. Stephen's, Belrose, Sydney. She writes educational material for the Anglican Board of Education.

EDITORIAL

Out Of The Saltshaker!

When you go into full-time Christian work one of the well known dangers is that it's easy to lose contact with your own home Church. Christian work often means weekend work. You miss out on the ministry and fellowship that we all need and get from regularly attending one's local Church.

If you had leadership responsibilities as I had, you also miss the involvement of contributing in skills, etc. to the ministry of the Church.

One avenue of continuing to have a worthwhile contribution to the life of "my Church", St. Mark's, Avalon (Sydney) has been introducing the congregation to Church Army courses.

Last year we started with a tentative 20 parishioners taking part in the video course, "Building a People of Power" by Selwyn Hughes. This is a programme that helps build the prayer life of a parish. Then, what started with a tentative 20, soon snowballed into over 150 parishioners of all ages taking part and enjoying the six video sessions on prayer.

Now we've started the "Out of the Saltshaker" series of videos. This is four, 40-minute video films featuring Evangelist, Rebecca Manley Pippert.

In Saltshaker, Becky Pippert talks about, "Evangelism as a Way of Life", "Getting the Story Straight", "Learning to Love" and "Sharing the Message" (session titles).

St. Mark's Youth Worker, Fiona Ross, says "Our group (the older Youth Bible Study Group) really like Becky Pippert. She's entertaining and easy to listen to. And, because she uses real life personal experiences in what she has to tell, it's easy to identify with and to relate to. I feel our group got a lot out of Saltshaker!"

This programme doesn't give, or even suggest, that there are easy, quick answers to the problems we all experience in personal eyangelism. There's emphasis on "Natural Evangelism" and on "Relationship Building". Also it's not just watching a video, groups are involved in group exercises. The work notes contain discussion questions which touch on real day-to-day issues.

If you have a deep down desire to share what you believe and it is a struggle for you to do just that, I think you will find "Out of the Saltshaker" will help you develop an approach to evangelism that will be "your way".

Graham Mosey, Parish Councillor and lay preacher at St. Mark's, who leads a Friday night Young Adults Bible Study Group, made this comment. "She (Becky Pippert) identifies with how most of us feel about evangelism. We often feel as though everyone else has got it all together and that we're the odd ones out. This series (Out of the Saltshaker) encourages Christians to discover styles of personal evangelism suited to their own personalities and gifts."

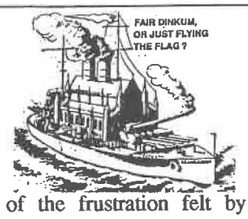
Can I encourage you to come out of the saltshaker and into the world!

WAL SPENCER,
Publicity and Development.

Fiona Ross, Youth Worker, Avalon

Graham Mosey, Parish Councillor, Avalon

Letters to the Editor



This letter shows some of the frustration felt by one pastorally-minded clergyman.

Dear Sir,

I refer to the cover illustration and the article *'Fair Dinkum, or Just Flying the Flag'* by the Rev'd G. MacRob in the June 1988 issue of "The Pioneer" and am concerned that neither are 'fair dinkum' representations of the contemporary Anglican Church.

The cover illustration should have depicted S.S. "Anglicanism" with her flag flying upside down, guns turned in on herself and, if not going astern, at least making no headway. The captain should clearly be seen to be hijacked by several bishops, priestesses, lady deacons, and numerous synodspersons all speaking in inclusive language; and in the surrounding waters most of the Bible and all the Books of Common Prayer which have been jettisoned. Anyway, at least her having too few life-boats and the funnels liberally pouring forth black and evil pollution is realistic.

The article fails to recognise that the demise of Anglicanism is a direct result of our lack of faith in and obedience to God: our conforming to the values of today's world in seeking worldly popularity. The beginning of this century was also a time of "massively changing habits of society" yet faithful anglo-catholics were doing brilliant work in the socio-economically depressed slums of England as were faithful evangelicals working similarly successfully amongst huge ethnic immigrant communities in the U.S.A.

Unless Anglicanism can return in humility and obedience to the will of Christ for his Church there is no remedy but shipwreck—and the alarms are ringing now.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
The Rev'd R. G. Martin,
Rector of Goondiwindi.

was I AM. At the very least, this must mean he is Lord of the continuous present. His followers must be committed to an evangelism that reveals the love of Jesus to all ages, to families, the comfortable, the disabled—in their present circumstances and in ways they can understand RIGHT NOW. God provides the opportunities. We provide the response—of one kind or another!

A third result of not really believing in adults being converted, is to make a strategic withdrawal from the actual front line, into the operations room. Instead of getting out into the world amongst people so as to proclaim the gospel and help them come to faith, we attend endless courses and conferences to study evangelism. An international convention on "Christian Outreach Today" with a well-known expert as the keynote speaker, is guaranteed to be fully booked. Committees pass resolutions. Groups deliberate at length. Extensive debate takes place around the latest study manual. The late David Watson speaks of "a generation of Christians who may be spending more time talking or writing about evangelism than actually doing it".

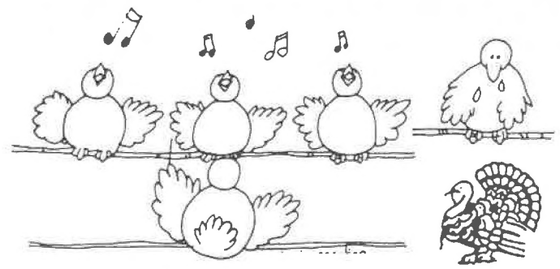
A good teacher who is promoted to the position of Principal, may well find that organising timetables for other teachers, leaves little opportunity for spending time with children in the classroom. Every Church must have courses to explain to members of the congregation just how to witness. To provide training in communication skills. To advise on appropriate techniques for getting across the Christian message to others. We must be very sure, however, these are not undertaken as a means of avoiding

Successful results guaranteed?

getting out and about amongst people to tell them about Jesus. It is safer to train others in the art of evangelism, than to risk failure or rejection by actually sharing the love of God by word and action in the harsh world of unbelievers. But this latter is precisely what the Saviour did for our sake. It is exactly this to which he calls his disciples today. Extended courses about evangelism without any action are highly suspect. So is the Christian who is always teaching others how to share the gospel message, without ever doing this himself or herself.

What can be done to help avoid all these dangers? A few practical suggestions may assist.

First, PRAYER (always a good thing!). Our own relationship with the Lord is vital for effective evangelism. John Stott says: "Nothing shuts the mouth, seals the lips, ties the tongue, like the poverty of our own spiritual experience. We do not bear witness for the simple reason that we have no witness to bear". It is a good idea to write on a sheet of paper the names of people with whom you have regular contact. Then, choose three of these names, write them on a postcard to keep in your Bible, and pray specifically and regularly for these people every day. In your mind picture them by faith, already walking through life alongside Jesus. By some strange coincidence(!) you will see things begin to happen. Your own attitude to them will change, they will begin to be more open, and God himself will give give you opportunities to share your own faith with them. Try it, and see.



We need to know our gifts, or the lack of them

Second, PLAN realistically. We need to know our own gifts, and the lack of them. Neither false humility nor excessive pride is a sign of spirituality. Though many seem to act as if the former is one of the Beautitudes listed in St. Matthew, Chapter 5. Christians should get to know their neighbours and their neighbourhood. We ought to be aware of local needs so as to be of practical help to others around. Bearing in mind the situation of your own family, have you considered how your home could be used? Friends can be invited in for coffee or a meal. An informal discussion or study group could be held. Nothing like this will just happen by accident. There is need for relaxed, but realistic organisation. Time can just slop past without our achieving anything.

Too much time talking and writing?

Third, get INVOLVED expectantly. Sometimes Christians are so active in Church organisations, there is no spare time or energy to take part in what might be called "secular" activities. Yet it is here that evangelism can, and should take place. Neighbourhood Watch schemes, parent/teacher groups, sporting activities, community service clubs, and many other local organisations and settings provide endless opportunities of making known the love of Christ through word and action. Jesus himself took the risk of becoming involved with all the wrong kinds of people. He was criticised for being the friend of tax collectors and sinners. But how else were they to meet with the living Word of God, except by his going to them and sitting alongside? By faith, we believe that today the Lord will use our witness to bring others to himself. A fisherman will not catch anything unless he goes near, or in the water. It is no good to stand in the Church Hall, and whistle!

One final word. Sometimes it is believed that evangelism can only be carried out effectively by a large Church, with many resources of people and equipment. Not so. A small to moderately-sized fellowship can be just as, or even more active in Christian outreach. Michael Wooderson says: "Where evangelism is concerned, smaller churches have the advantage every time. If there are less than fifty people in your church, evangelism can become a central and continuous activity of the whole congregation in a way that would be almost impossible to achieve in a large church".

Captain Gilbert Page C.A.

BE A FRIEND!

The Friends of the College have launched a College Building Fund Appeal for much needed extensions to the Church Army College. $100,000.00 is the projected target. Work has already been commenced on a cottage to accommodate Captain John McKim, C.A., Dean of students. A modest, 3-bedroom, Bildakit Homes Australia, kit home is being built in the College grounds by local builders, Adema Constructions. Rapid progress is being made and John hopes to move in at the end of September. $50,000 has been budgeted for this project. This would include construction and furnishing, etc.

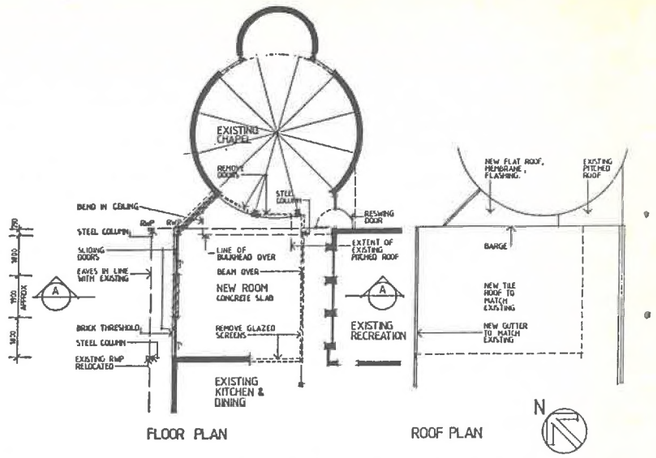
Plans for Project 2, a new College Common Room, have been drawn up. An additional room for lectures, etc., is desperately needed at the College. Many classes are currently being held in the College Library which prevents it being fully used as a library by both on-campus and external students. The building of the new Common Room would release the existing Common Room for use as a Lecture Room.

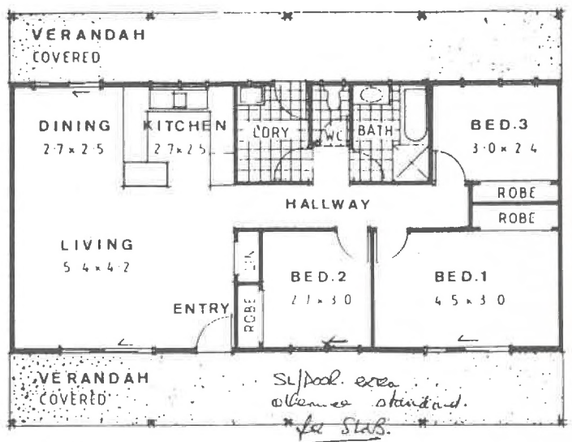
The new Common Room would be adjoining the College Chapel. Connected by sliding doors or curtains would give an extended open area doubling the size of the Chapel. Having a "larger Chapel" would overcome the overcrowding and cramped conditions that exist at many of the special services held at the College. Estimates for this project are a further $50,000.00. Again this would include construction, furnishing and carpeting, etc. As Graeme MacRobb, Principal of the Church Army College says, "The College is suffering from growing pains which affects both college life and its ministry. Our progress is being retarded through lack of adequate training facilities and accommodation. I appeal to you to please help us.

Your generosity will give the Anglican Church a new generation of Evangelists equipped and effective in outreach."

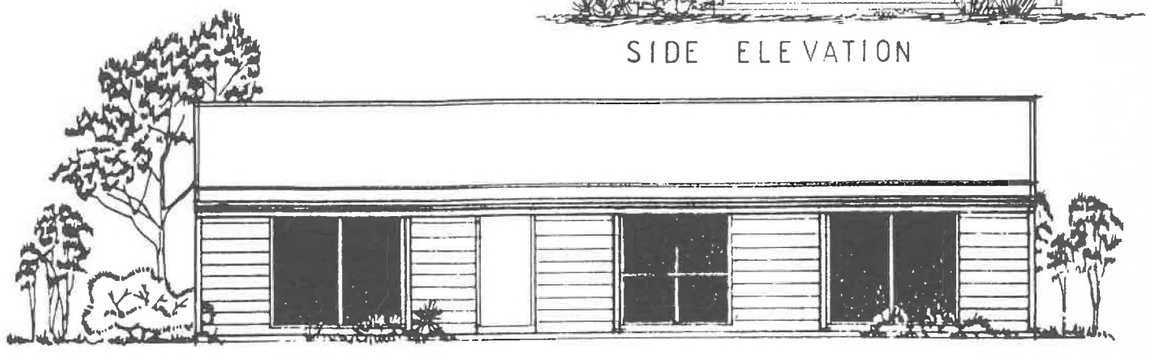
Donations to the College Building Fund are tax-deductible.

PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATION WITH RETURN SLIP ON OPPOSITE PAGE





SIDE ELEVATION



FRONT ELEVATION

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH ARMY BOOKSHOP

Church Army Bookshop Staff. Left to right. Judy Roots, Captain Mark Rogers C.A., Wanda Porter, 'Lex Jennison, Jennifer Taaffe (Manager), Margaret Fauchon, Jo Berry (partially obscured), Ruth Wells

Jennifer Taaffe (left) with customer, Jane Cantor

'Lex Jennison at Cash 'n' Wrap counter

"Welcome to the Church Army Bookshop", says the newly-hung sign suspended in the centre of the shop.

Building on the more than 20 years Bookshop Ministry of the former Bookshop Manager, Captain Neil Payne, and using it as a launching pad. Great things are happening at the Church Army Bookshop in Newcastle.

With a minimum of expense and a maximum of effort, 14 Perkins Street, Newcastle, is undergoing a much needed facelift.

New Manager, (Mrs) Jennifer Taaffe (rhymes with safe) and her team, with more than a little help from her master builder-husband Mort' (Morton), are transforming the old shop. Gone is the office from the front of the shop, all the administration area is now located at the rear of the shop. A large customer service area has also been installed at the rear end of the shop. With a smaller, quick service counter (cash and wrap) at the front of the shop. This new layout gives the shop a wide, open, come-in, browse and buy look. A lot of care has been taken in re-arranging and re-constructing the display shelves, with emphasis on easy location of books, etc. It almost looks like a new shop!

Lex Jennison, one of the longer serving staff members at the Bookshop, feels there's a very positive reaction from customers. He says, "People are saying we've added on to the shop. It certainly looks bigger, the way we've moved things around."

Jane Cantor from St. Phillips Anglican Parish, Waratah (Newcastle) agrees with this. "There's lots more space, and books are easier to find, she says, and it really does seem bigger."

Mrs Ruth Mannweiler of St. Lukes Uniting Church, Belmont, praised, "The good selection of books and the extra friendliness of the staff!"

Long-time customers, Mr and Mrs Claude Berkely, from the Seventh Day Adventist Retirement Village at Cooranbong (just outside Newcastle) spoke of years of good service from the Bookshop and of how they always call there when they "come to town". Mr. Berkely, an old retailer from way back, had much to say about the changes at the shop. He said, "You've got to make it easy for people to buy. They've got to see what you've got to offer. The work the staff has done has made such a big difference! It's a job well done!"

Much has been done in the past few months at the Bookshop, with much more to do to extend what Church Army sees as a vital part of its ministry.

Captain Mark Rogers, C.A., who works part-time at the Bookshop, sees many opportunities for evangelism. He says, "Often with customers, it's like planting seeds, and when they come back you can do more cultivating and growing."

Both he and Jennifer Taaffe, the Bookshop Manager, talk of the possibilities of running short, daytime or evening courses on the premises, helping people in their Christian growth and in developing new skills in evangelism and outreach.

So whether it's planning for the future, or helping you with your needs now, there's a welcome waiting for you at the Church Army Bookshop.

(See Jennifer Taaffe's own message on opposite page).

BOOKSHOP CORNER

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